

Frequently Asked Questions

Alumni Opportunity Grants Program - Fiscal Year 2020 Palestinian Affairs Unit, Public Diplomacy Section

1. What is the timeline for submission? When will proposals be reviewed?

Proposals will be reviewed in three rounds. Proposals submitted by April 24 will be considered for Round 1 funding. Decisions for Round 1 will be sent out by the end of April. Proposals submitted between April 25 and May 22 will be considered for Round 2 funding. Decisions for Round 2 will be sent out by the end of May. Proposals submitted between May 23 and July 15 will be considered for Round 3 funding. Decisions for Round 3 will be sent out by the end of July.

2. Is the \$40,000 in available funding the total for the three rounds, or will each round have \$40,000 available?

The \$40,000 available for the Alumni Opportunity Grants program is the total for all rounds, depending on availability of funds. Each award will range between \$500 and \$10,000.

3. Is there a funding limit for individual awards?

Total funding available for individuals is up to \$5,000 per award. The total available funding for organizations is up to \$10,000 per award.

4. Can the alumni opportunity grants fund a start-up that provides social services to different segments of the society and creates employment opportunities? The start-up will rely on other funding sources after the alumni opportunity grant, which will only be used to support and fund the founding costs.

Alumni Opportunity Grants fund individuals and not-for-profit organizations (NGO) to implement grant projects that achieve the objectives set out in the Program Objectives of the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO). For-profit companies and organizations are not eligible for funding, and grant funds cannot be used as seed funds or "angel investment" funds for a new company, so if your start-up is a new company or for-profit entity, it would not be eligible for funding.

An individual or NGO applying for funding under this program will need to present a budget with allowable and reasonable costs for achieving the project and grant program goals and objectives as outlined in the NOFO. Please note that projects intended primarily for the growth/institutional development/maintenance of the applicant organization or its partner organizations are not allowed under this program and outlined in the NOFO under Section D "Application and Submission Information" Part 5 "Funding Restrictions." Administrative costs included in the project proposal budget must be to support the project and not intended primarily to support the organization itself.

5. I'm currently in the U.S. and planning to apply through a U.S. organization, though the project will be implemented via a local partner in Palestine. Is that OK? Or is it better to apply it solely as an alumnus?

Eligible primary applicants for grant funding must be 1) Palestinian alumni of USG programs (individuals) residing in Jerusalem, the West Bank or Gaza; or 2) not-for-profit organizations (NGOs) registered in the West Bank, Jerusalem, or Gaza as described in the NOFO in Section C "Eligibility Information." NGOs registered only in the U.S. are not eligible for this funding opportunity, though a Palestinian organization based in Jerusalem, the West Bank, or Gaza who applies for funding may partner with an American organization or individuals to implement their project, as long as the beneficiaries are in one or all of the eligible locations.

6. Can an individual or organization receive multiple grants?

There is no limit to the number of awards that an individual or organization can receive under this program. However, the selection committee will aim to offer awards to a diverse pool of individuals and organizations with competitive proposals, so a single individual or organization receiving more than one award under this program is unlikely. Note that regulations prohibit awarding multiple awards for the same project. In other words, if you are already receiving U.S. government funds for a project then you cannot receive additional funding from this program for the same project.

7. What is Gaza share of the alumni opportunity grants funding?

There are no regionally specific allocations for this program. The selection committee will aim to offer awards to a diverse pool of individuals and organizations with competitive proposals, including geographic diversity. It is the quality of the project itself and the likelihood that it will achieve the goals and objectives outlined in the NOFO that matters most in determining what projects will be funded.

8. The second required attachment is a reference letter from a partner organization. Does this requirement apply to proposals that do not have partner organizations?

Proposals that do not include partner organizations do not require a reference letter. Applicants are not required to have a partner organization if that is not relevant to the design of the project being proposed.

9. Can individuals who are not U.S. government program alumni submit applications for this grant opportunity?

No, eligible applicants must be U.S. government program or exchange alumni as described in the notice of funding opportunity in Section C "Eligibility Information." Proposals can include non-alumni implementing partners, but must demonstrate clearly that it is an alumni led and implemented project.

10. I have submitted a project proposal for another funding opportunity. If I don't receive funding for my project from that other application, is it possible to apply with the same

idea to this funding?

Yes, you may submit proposals to multiple embassy funding opportunities, however, you may not receive multiple U.S. government-funded awards for the same project. This is often referred to as “double dipping.” It is possible for an organization or individual to receive multiple U.S. government-funded grants for different projects., but never for the same one. Elements that may define different projects are different audiences, time frames, goals and objectives, or activities and methods. So, if you apply to receive funding for a specific project from more than one U.S. government funding source, once you accept funding from one source, you are no longer eligible for funding from the other source.

11. Can we propose ideas to be implemented in two or all three of the eligible geographic areas [Gaza, West Bank, and Jerusalem]? For example, if I am proposing a capacity building training for 60 participants, is it if there are 20 per each area?

Yes. Proposals can include multiple areas in the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem.

12. Do these grants allow the use of funds for sustained salaries of full time team members to achieve the project goals?

Grant funds can be used to support personnel and fringe benefits of temporary or permanent staff who will be working directly for the grantee organization to implement the project. As outlined in Section H under “Guidelines for Budget Justification,” the budget must describe the wages, salaries, and benefits, and the percentage of their time that will be spent on the project. Grant funds cannot be used to pay for staff salaries or benefits for time not spent working on the funded project. For example, if an accountant for an organization will work on issues related to the budget of the project funded under this program for 10 hours each month, the project funds can only be used for 10 hours of that accountant’s monthly salary and benefits, not their entire monthly salary and benefits.

13. What project types are supported by the different PAU-PD grants programs and funding opportunities for different kinds of activities? For example, which PAU-PD grant program funding opportunity should I apply for if I want to do capacity building, mentorship, and training program for fresh graduates; or establish an office for freelancers and connect them with companies in Israel; or establish a local non-profit organization?

Please see all funding opportunities currently offered by the Palestinian Affairs Unit Public Diplomacy section at <https://il.usembassy.gov/palestinian-affairs-unit/cultural-and-educational-programs/grants-and-funding-opportunities/>

Each funding opportunity clearly states the kinds of projects it can fund and the goals and objectives it is trying to achieve. Find the opportunity that most closely fits your project’s topics, goals and objectives, and apply for that one. Also be sure to read the eligibility criteria to confirm that you and/or your organization meet the requirements.

And remember, in general, Public Diplomacy funding cannot be used primarily for the growth/institutional development/maintenance of the applicant organization or its partner organizations as outlined under Section D "Application and Submission Information" Part 5 "Funding Restrictions."